

VIRGINIA BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK
EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS NECESSARY TO QUALIFY
TO SIT FOR THE LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK EXAMINATION
IN VIRGINIA

The applicant shall be a graduate of a Master or Doctor of Social Work Program in a clinical course of study. An applicant with a non-clinical concentration must complete additional graduate level academic course work and field placement/practicum to meet all requirements for a clinical course of study.

Social Work Education at the Master's level includes foundation course work, common for all social work students, and advanced course work for student specialization. The Doctor of Social Work Program must at a minimum meet all requirements for the advanced course requirements for a clinical course of study.

The minimum course requirements for a clinical course of study include graduate level courses consisting of:

12 credit hours **Explanatory Theory** (How we understand Human Behavior through a BioPsychoSocial perspective, i.e., psychodynamic, ego psychology, self psychology, relational, systems, cognitive behavioral, socio/cultural, behavioral, etc.)

12 credit hours **Practice Theory** (Models of Direct Practice, Clinical Practice or Psychotherapy, i.e., individual, family, child and adolescent, or group psychotherapy, cognitive behavioral, client centered, short-term, etc. from conventional theoretical models of social work practice).

3 credit hours **Psychopathology** including assessment, diagnosis and treatment.

3 credit hours **Social Work Practice Research**

Course work in **Diversity Issues, Social Justice, Culture, and At-Risk Populations** (i.e., abused children)

Supervised **Field Placement/Practicum** in clinical social work services* should be a minimum of 600 hours, which are integrated with the Clinical Course of Study course work. Supervision of the student shall be provided by a supervisor who holds Master's or Doctor's degree in Social Work and has a minimum of 3 years of experience in clinical social work services* after earning the graduate degree or who is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. An applicant who has otherwise met the requirements for a clinical course of study but who did not have a minimum of 600 hours in a supervised field placement/practicum in clinical social work services may meet the requirement by obtaining an equivalent number of hours of supervised practice in clinical social work services in addition to the experience required in 18VAC140-20-50 of Regulations Governing the Practice of Social Work.

Graduates of a Bachelor of Social Work program who earn Advanced Standing in the Masters program must meet all minimum course requirements for a Clinical Course of Study, except Advanced Standing students may count up to 6 hours of Explanatory Theory and up to 6 hours of Practice Theory completed during the Bachelor degree program towards meeting the requirements.

A Master of Social Work program must be accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. A Doctor of Social Work program must be accredited by the appropriate Regional Academic Accrediting body (i.e., Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Middle States Commission on Higher Education).

**Clinical social work services include the application of social work principles and methods in performing assessments and diagnoses based on a recognized manual of mental and emotional disorders or recognized system of problem definition, preventive and early intervention services and treatment services, including but not limited to psychotherapy and counseling for mental disorders, substance abuse, marriage and family dysfunction, and problems caused by social and psychological stress or health impairment. (Definition taken from Regulations of the Practice of Social Work, 18VAC140-20-10)*